

WIC Program

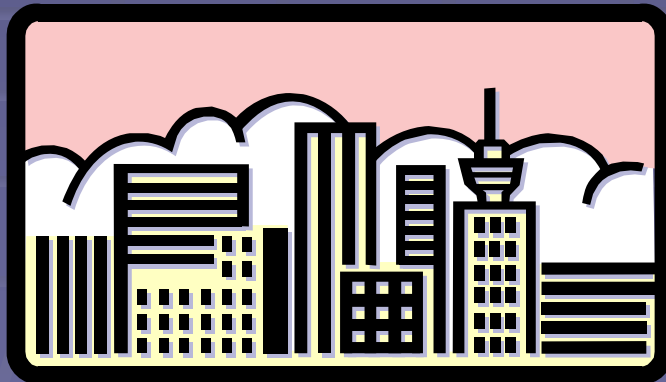


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Where is WIC?

- 90 State agencies (State health departments and ITOs)
- about 2,200 local agencies
- about 9,000 clinics
- 46,000 authorized retailers



Average Monthly Participation Fiscal Year 2005

- 2 million infants
- 4 million children (1-4 years)
- 2 million women
- 8 million total participants monthly



WIC Funding

FY 2004

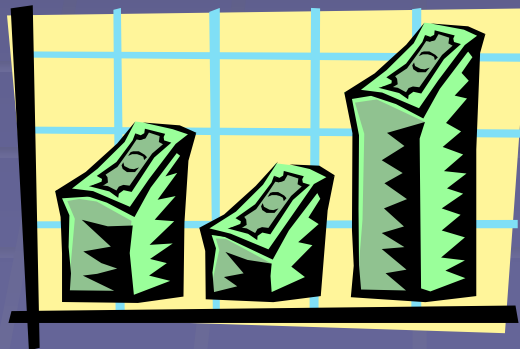
\$4.61 billion

FY 2005

5.2 billion

FY 2006

5.2 billion (just over)



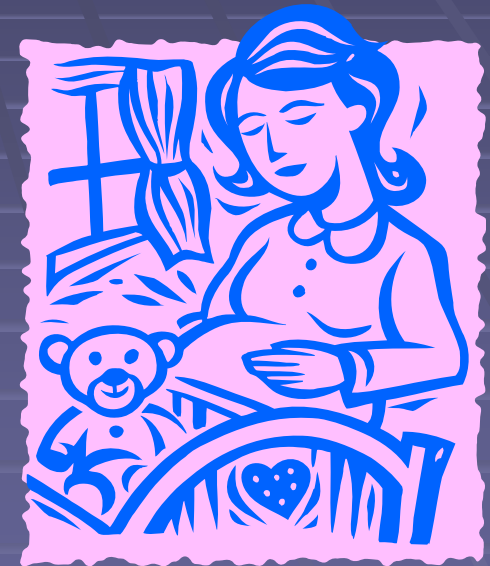
WIC Benefits

- Nutrition education
- Supplemental foods
- Referrals to health and social services



WIC Eligibility

- Women
 - pregnant
 - postpartum (up to 6 months)
 - breastfeeding (up to 1 year)
- Infants (up to 12 months)
- Children (up to 5 years)



WIC Certification Process

- A screening process to determine applicant eligibility
- Completed at no cost to applicant
- At a minimum, entails blood work and height/weight measurements
- Frequently includes health history and a dietary assessment



Certification Periods

- A WIC certification period is generally 6 months to a year, depending upon categorical eligibility



Role of Current Food Package

- Address the nutritional needs of WIC eligible population
- Supply a good food source of protein, iron, calcium, vitamin A & C to low-income at-risk target population
- Foundation for nutrition education



Current WIC Foods

- Infant formulas
- Infant and adult cereals
- Infant and adult juices
- Eggs
- Milk/Cheese
- Peanut butter
- Dry Beans or peas
- Carrots and Tuna

How are Food Instruments Used?

- The participant exchanges food instruments for WIC foods at authorized grocery stores.
- The store submits food instruments to its bank, like a personal check.
- The WIC State agency then reimburses the store for the amount of food instruments.



Need to Revise WIC Food Packages

- Advances in nutritional science
- Numerous requests from WIC State agencies, the National WIC Association and participants
- National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition recommendations



WIC FOOD PACKAGES: *Time for a Change*

Institute of Medicine
Final Report

April 2005



Summary of IOM's Proposed Changes to WIC Food Packages

- Expands food categories
- Adds new foods and substitutes
- Improves cultural appeal
- Promotes breastfeeding
- Improves consistency with Dietary Guidance



Summary of IOM's Proposed Changes to WIC Food Packages

- Adds fruits and vegetables
- Adds whole grains
- Adds infant foods
- Establishes 3 infant feeding options & age ranges
- Provides additional food for women pregnant with multiples or breastfeeding multiples



Addition of Fruits and Vegetables

- Single most fundamental change
- Consistent with Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005
- Many public comments advocating for inclusion of fruits and vegetables

State Fruit/Vegetable Pilots

California: Two Pilot Projects

- 6-month pilot (2001) at 3 urban sites
 - \$10 weekly voucher
 - postpartum women
- Ongoing rural county site
 - \$5 monthly voucher
 - Women and Children

New York: 3-month pilot

- \$10 total benefit
- WIC Children



WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

- Supports local agriculture and farmers' markets
- Provides coupons for fresh, unprepared, locally-grown fruits, vegetables and herbs
- Increases access to fresh fruits and vegetables for WIC participants



WIC Food Package Rulemaking

- Statutory Deadline for final rule: November 2006
- Proposed rule to update the WIC food packages has cleared the Department
- Anticipate publication of proposed rule in July 2006



Questions???????

- Visit our website
 - www.fns.usda.gov/wic

